

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four

40
JULY

MARVEL
COMICS GROUP 12¢

DOCTOR DOOM
MORE DIABOLICAL, MORE DEADLY
THAN EVER BEFORE!

"THE
BATTLE
OF THE
BAXTER
BUILDING!"



DON'T MISS THE THING'S
EPIC HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT
WITH DESPERATE DR. DOOM!

THE FABULOUS F.F.--FIGHTING THEIR MOST DESPERATE FIGHT!

DESTINED TO TAKE ITS PLACE BESIDE THE BATTLES OF WATERLOO,
GETTYSBURG, AND DUNKIRK, HERE IS...

"THE BATTLE OF THE BAXTER BUILDING"

POSSIBLY
THE GREATEST
ACTION-DRAMA
YOU WILL
READ THIS
YEAR!



SPELLBINDING SCRIPT BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE

INKED BY: V. COLLETTA

ASTONISHING ARTWORK BY:
JACK (KING) KIRBY

LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

LET'S GET UP TO DATE FAST! DOCTOR DOOM HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS OF THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR! HAVING LOST THEIR SUPER POWERS, DUE TO A BATTLE WITH THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR (SHOWN IN F.F. #38), REED AND HIS GALLANT TRIO ARE AIDED BY THE SIGHTLESS DAREDEVIL AS THEY TRY TO LAUNCH AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST THE MOST DANGEROUS ARCH-VILLAIN OF ALL TIME!

NOW THAT I REALIZE THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE POWERLESS, I CAN TOY WITH THEM... PICK THEM OFF AT MY LEISURE!

AND, THE SUPREME IRONY IS THE FACT THAT I CAN USE REED RICHARDS' OWN WEAPONS AGAINST HIM, SO LONG AS I REMAIN IN CONTROL OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS!

SINCE MY OWN INTELLIGENCE IS THE EQUAL OF RICHARDS', I HAVE ONLY TO LOOK AT ONE OF HIS DEVICES TO INSTANTLY GRASP ITS PURPOSE AND METHOD OF OPERATION!

-- SUCH AS THIS REMOTE-CONTROL TV EYE WHICH I'VE SET TO FIND MY VICTIMS NO MATTER HOW WELL-HIDDEN THEY MAY BE IN A CROWD!

A FLYING CAMERA!! COMING FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING!

THE F.F. MUST BE TESTING SOME NEW CRIME-FIGHTING DEVICE!

IT ALMOST HIT ME!

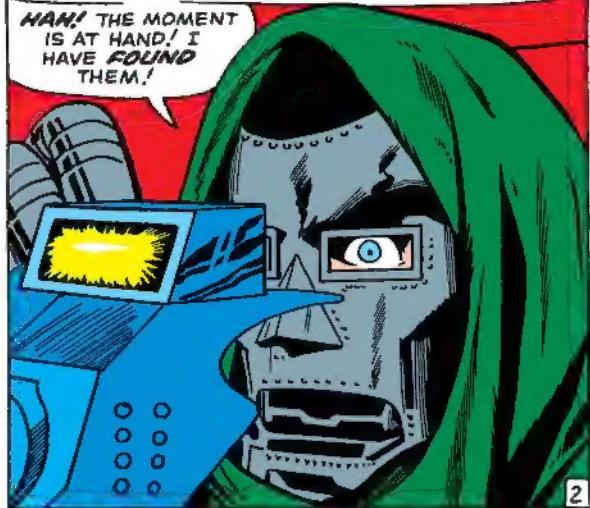
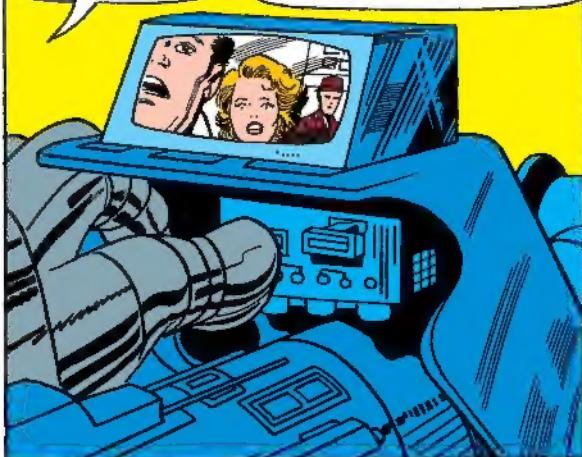
THEY'VE NO RIGHT TO SCARE INNOCENT PEOPLE THIS WAY!

AT THE RATE THE TV EYE IS TRAVELLING, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES BEFORE IT LOCATES THE ONES I SEEK!

HOW THEY MUST BE TREMBLING IN HELPLESS FEAR RIGHT NOW, KNOWING THAT THEIR DESTRUCTION IS IMMINENT-- AND THAT ONCE THEY ARE GONE, THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE SHALL BEAR THE BRUNT OF MY NEXT ATTACK!

TOO LONG HAVE I REMAINED IN MY REMOTE KINGDOM OF LATVERIA, UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE REST OF MANKIND! NOW, I FEEL THE THRILL OF BATTLE AGAIN, AND I SHALL NOT STOP UNTIL THE ENTIRE WORLD GROVELS BEFORE ME!

HAN! THE MOMENT IS AT HAND! I HAVE FOUND THEM!



BUT, BEFORE THE MASTER OF MENACE CAN LAUNCH HIS ATTACK, THE SIGHTLESS DAREDEVIL SENSES THE PRESENCE OF THE TV EYE AND MOVES WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT--!



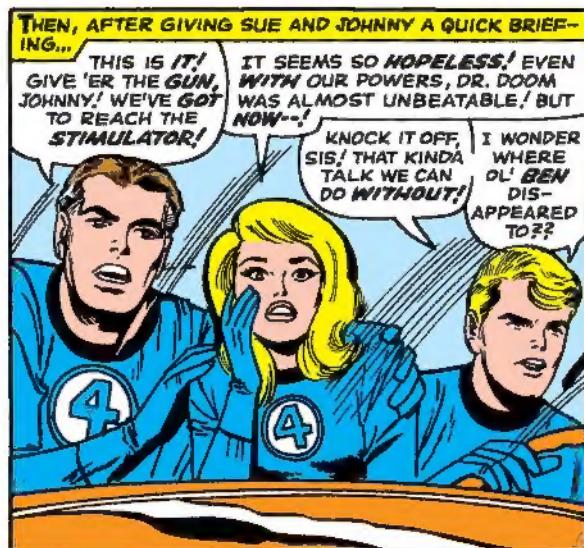
THEN WE WON'T TRY TO OUTRUN IT!

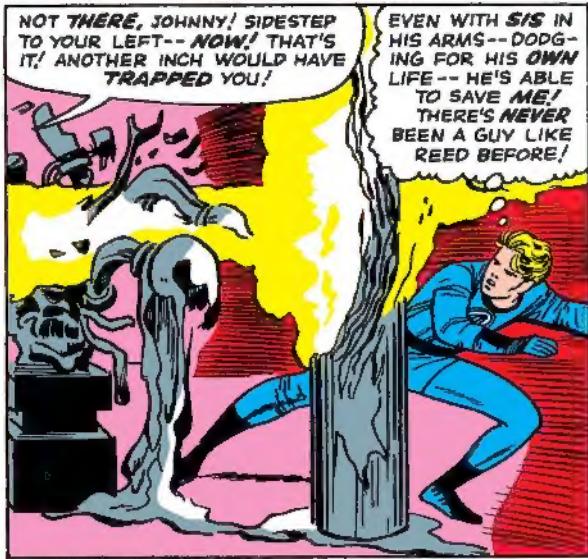
WITH HIS FINGERS MOVING ALMOST FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR MAKES A LIGHTNING-LIKE ADJUSTMENT ON HIS EVER-PRESENT BILLY CLUB!

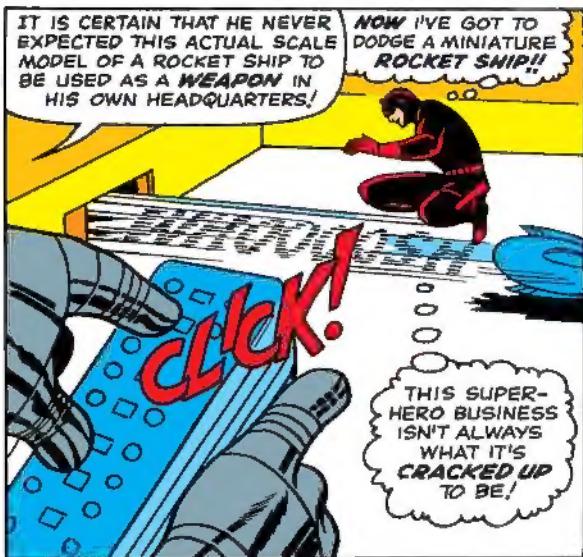
THE FLYING OBJECT GENERATES SO MUCH POWER, THAT I CAN SENSE ITS EXACT LOCATION AS IT DRAWS CLOSER!

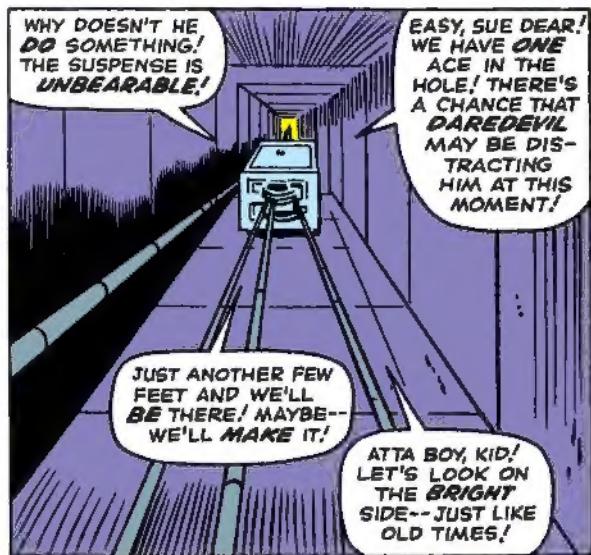
AND, AS LONG AS I KNOW WHERE IT IS--

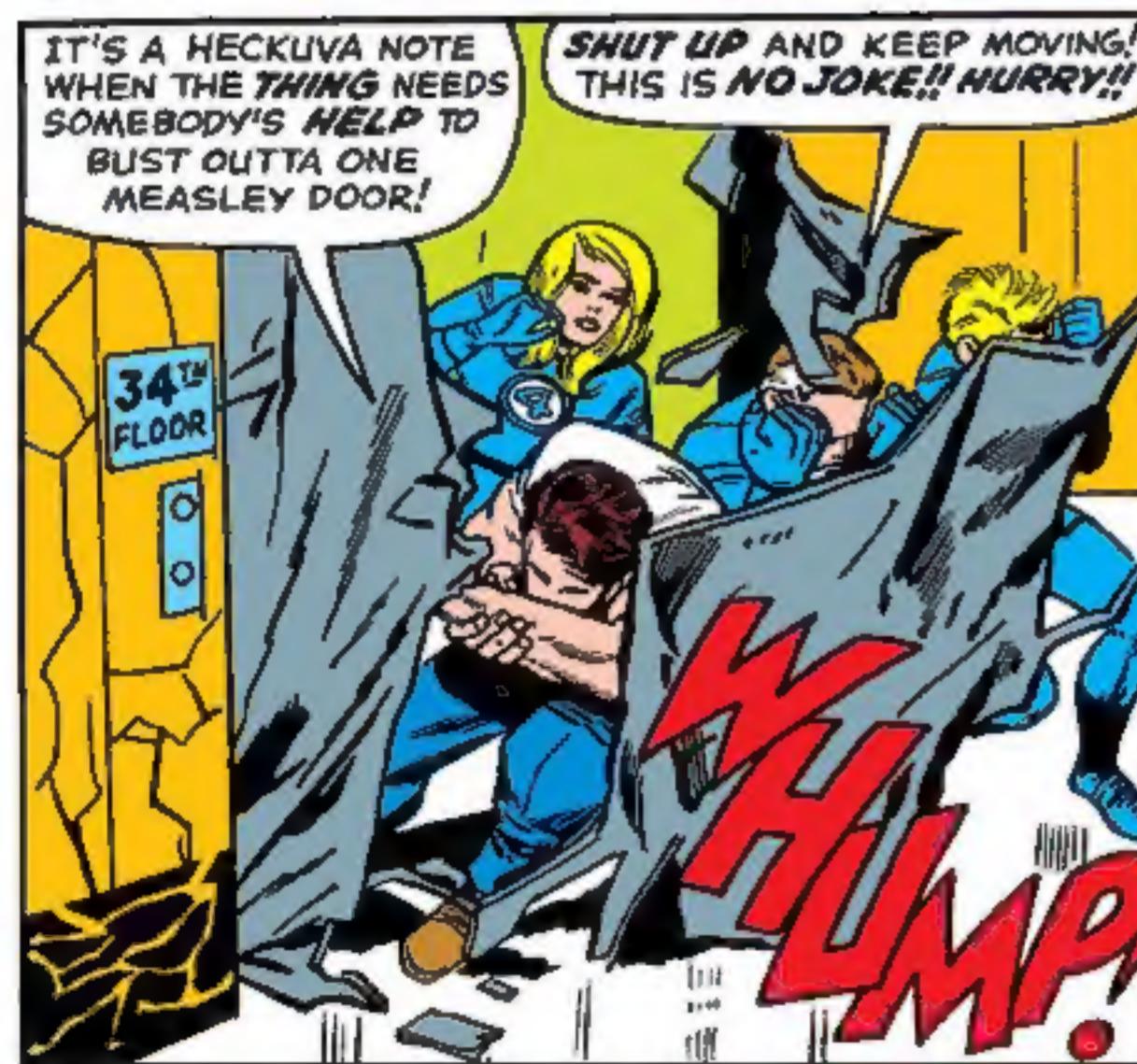




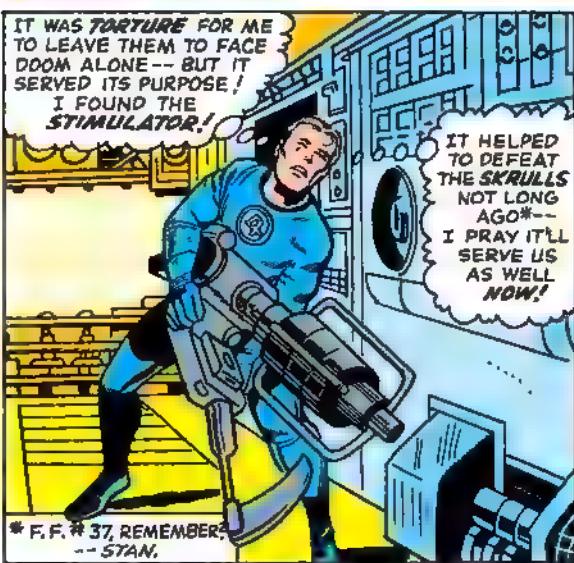


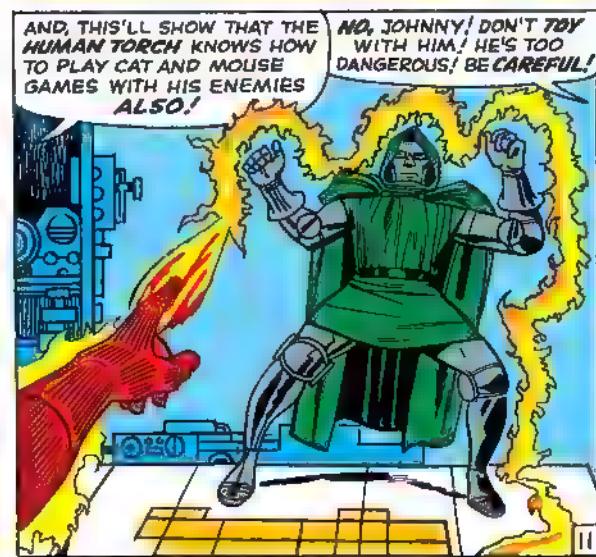


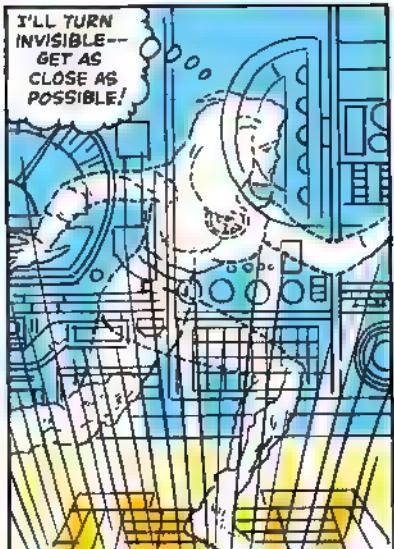










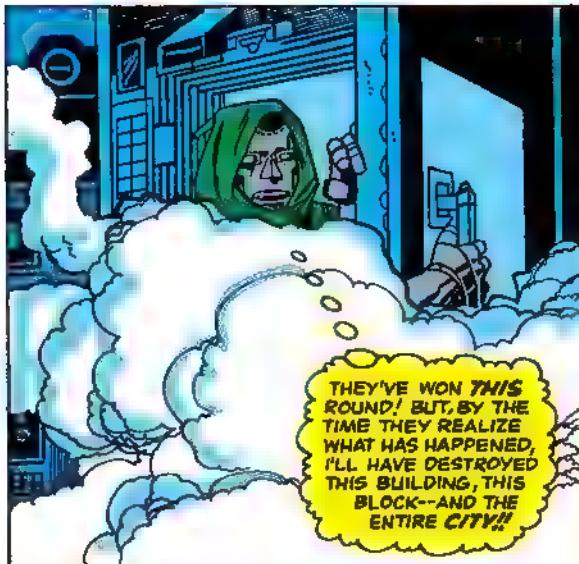
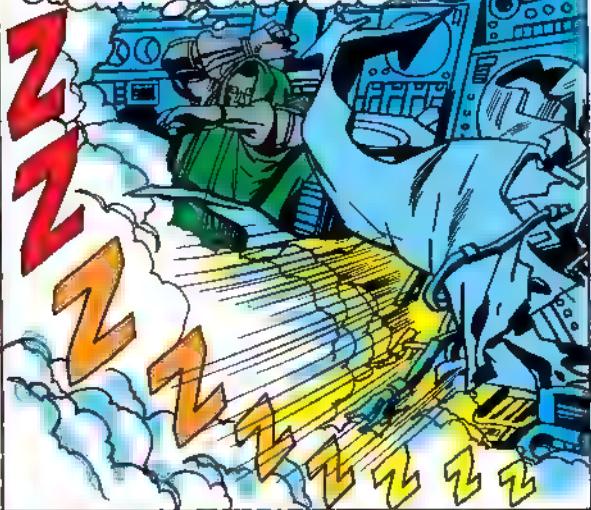


THAT SELFSAME SECOND, THE FROST IS INSTANTLY DISSIPATED, AS A BLAZING BURST OF STEAM SHOOTS OUT, INSTANTLY CHANGING THE ENTIRE COURSE OF THE BATTLE!

ARRRHHHHH!!



MY ARMOR PROTECTS ME EASILY ENOUGH, BUT THE STEAM HAS SHATTERED THE FREEZING UNIT-- IT SAVED THE FANTASTIC FOUR BY A HAIRSBREADTH!!



THEY'VE WON THIS ROUND! BUT, BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED, I'LL HAVE DESTROYED THIS BUILDING, THIS BLOCK--AND THE ENTIRE CITY!!



HEY, STRETCHO! IF THAT GIZMO CAN BRING OUR POWERS BACK, WHY DIDN'T YOU USE IT ON US BEFORE, INSTEAD OF WASTIN' TIME WITH THOSE NUTTY SUBSTITUTE GADGETS OF YOURS?*

I HAD BEEN WONDERING THE SAME THING!

THE STIMULATOR'S ENERGY HAD BEEN ALL BUT DRAINED ON THE SKRULL PLANET; IT NEEDED ANOTHER FEW DAYS OF RECHARGING!

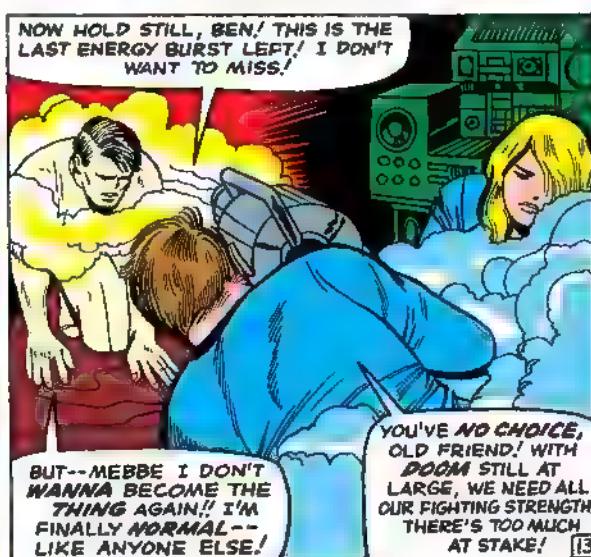
THOSE SUBSTITUTE DEVICES WERE MERELY STOP GAP MEASURES, IN CASE OF EXTREME EMERGENCY!

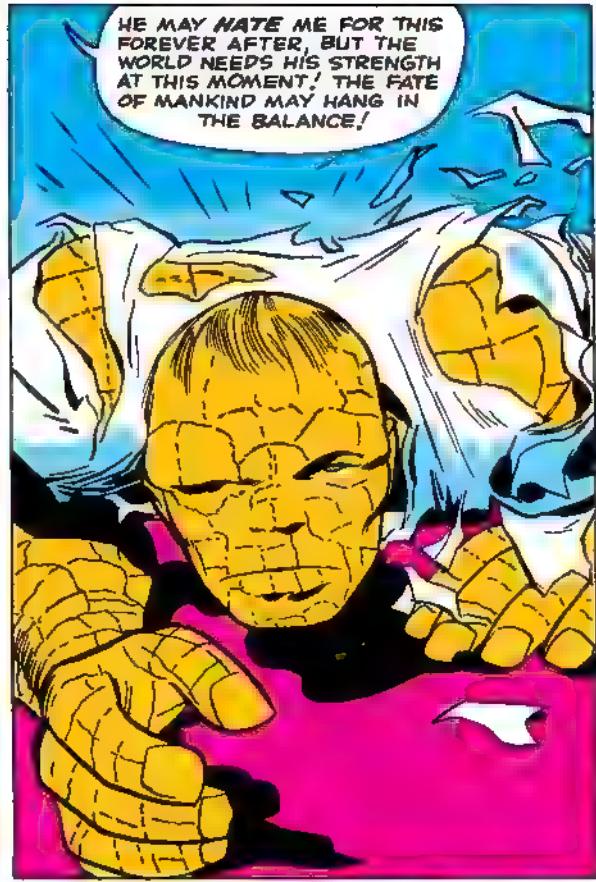
NOW HOLD STILL, BEN! THIS IS THE LAST ENERGY BURST LEFT! I DON'T WANT TO MISS!

BUT-- MEBBE I DON'T WANNA BECOME THE THING AGAIN!! I'M FINALLY NORMAL-- LIKE ANYONE ELSE!

YOU'VE NO CHOICE, OLD FRIEND! WITH DOOM STILL AT LARGE, WE NEED ALL OUR FIGHTING STRENGTH! THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE!

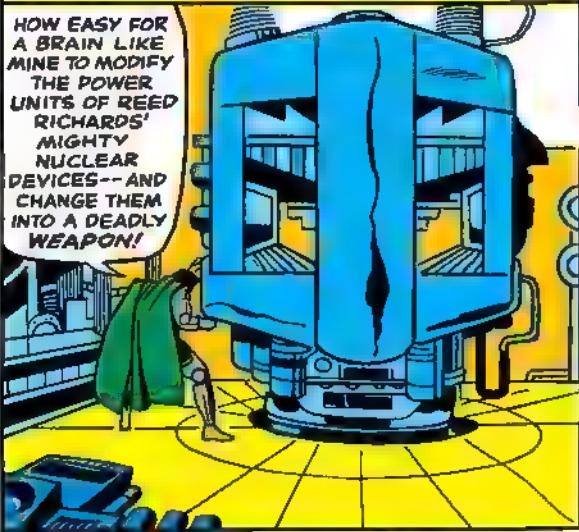
* AS SEEN IN F.F. #39--- STAN.





MEANTIME, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF F.F. HEADQUARTERS, THE EVIL GENIUS OF DOCTOR DOOM HAS HASTILY CONCOCTED THE MOST DANGEROUS THREAT OF HIS LONG AND SINISTER CAREER--!

HOW EASY FOR A BRAIN LIKE MINE TO MODIFY THE POWER UNITS OF REED RICHARD'S MIGHTY NUCLEAR DEVICES--AND CHANGE THEM INTO A DEADLY WEAPON!



I'VE CREATED A TIME BOMB WHICH WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!

ALL I NEED DO IS GET SAFELY OUT OF RANGE AND AWAIT THE FATAL MOMENT! MORE THAN EVER HAVE I INSURED THAT THE NAME OF DOCTOR DOOM SHALL FOREVER LIVE IN INFAMY!



AND NOW, TO TAKE MY LEAVE! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE WON THE BATTLE-- BUT LOST THE WAR! WAIT--WHAT'S THAT???



YOU!! IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I'M THE THING AGAIN!! YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THAT, DO YA HEAR?? I'M GONNA DEMOLISH YOU!!

ANHHH! AT LAST-- THE BRAINLESS, BLABBERING THING! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!



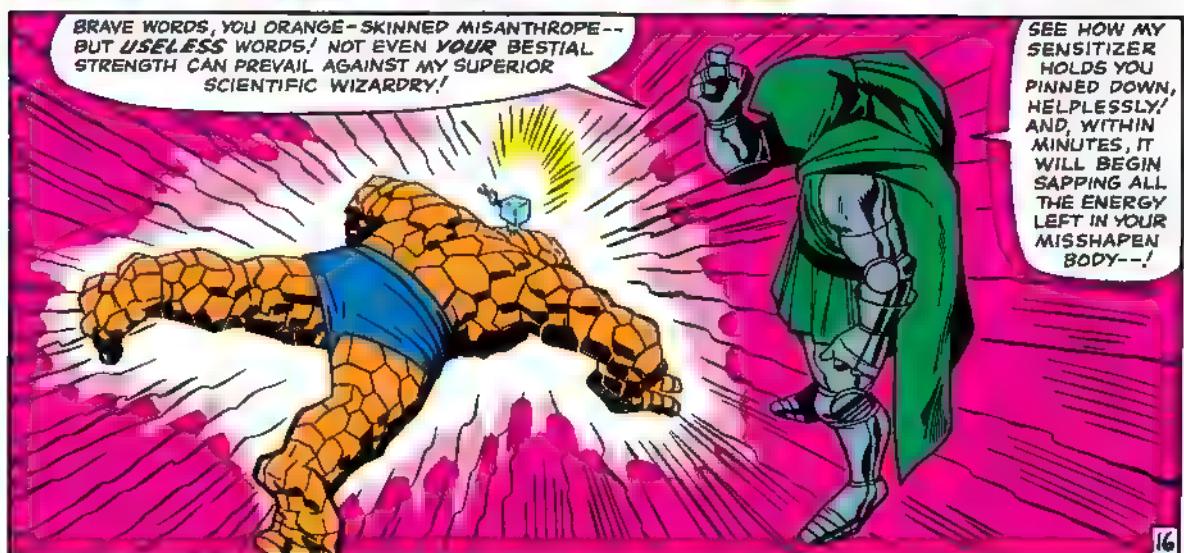
AND YA WON'T HAVETA WAIT ANY LONGER!



Y-YER STILL STANDIN' ??!!

NATURALLY! MY ARMOR'S FORCE FIELD CAN GENERATE 100,000 MEGAVOLTS OF PURE ENERGY! THE MIRACLE IS THAT YOU HAVE NOT DESTROYED YOURSELF!





BUT, EVEN THE DIABOLICAL DR. DOOM HAS UNDER-ESTIMATED THE POWER THAT LIES WITHIN THE BURLY, BRUTISH BODY OF THE ENRAGED THING--!

YOU BELIEVE IT,
DOOM! JUST YOU
BELIEVE IT!

NO--NO--IT
CAN'T BE!

THE ONLY WAY
YA'LL STOP
ME IS BY
KILLIN' ME!

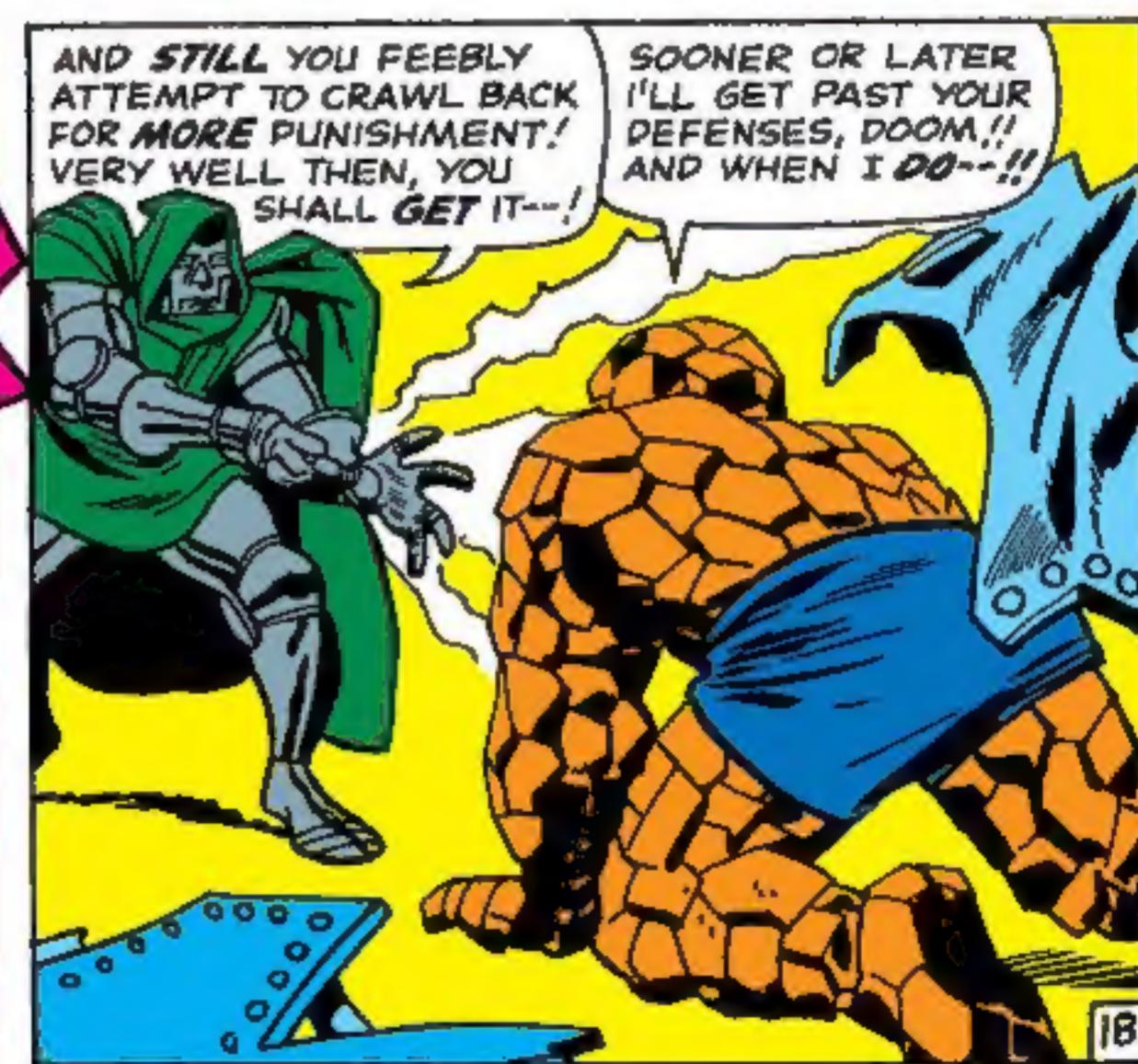
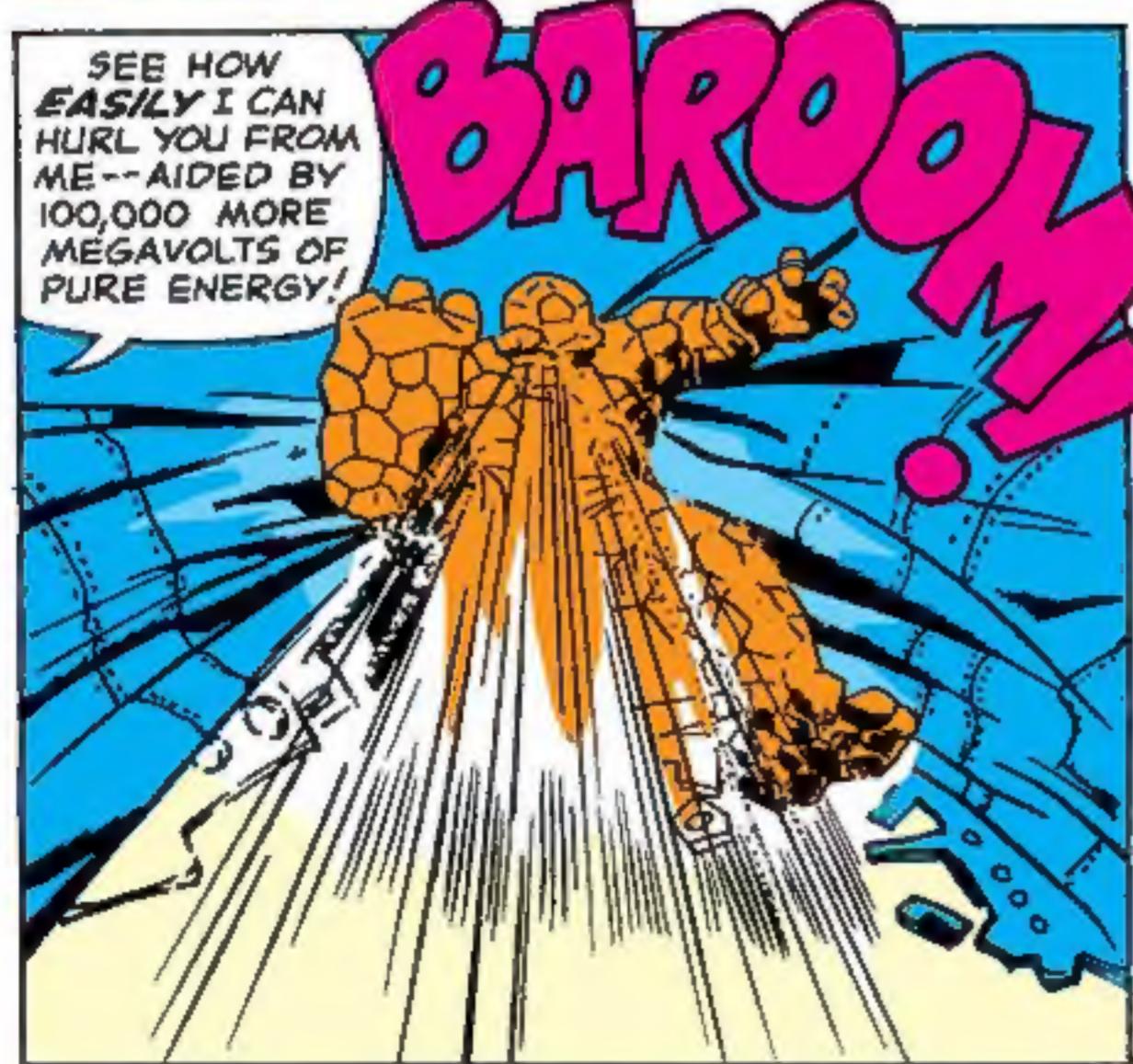
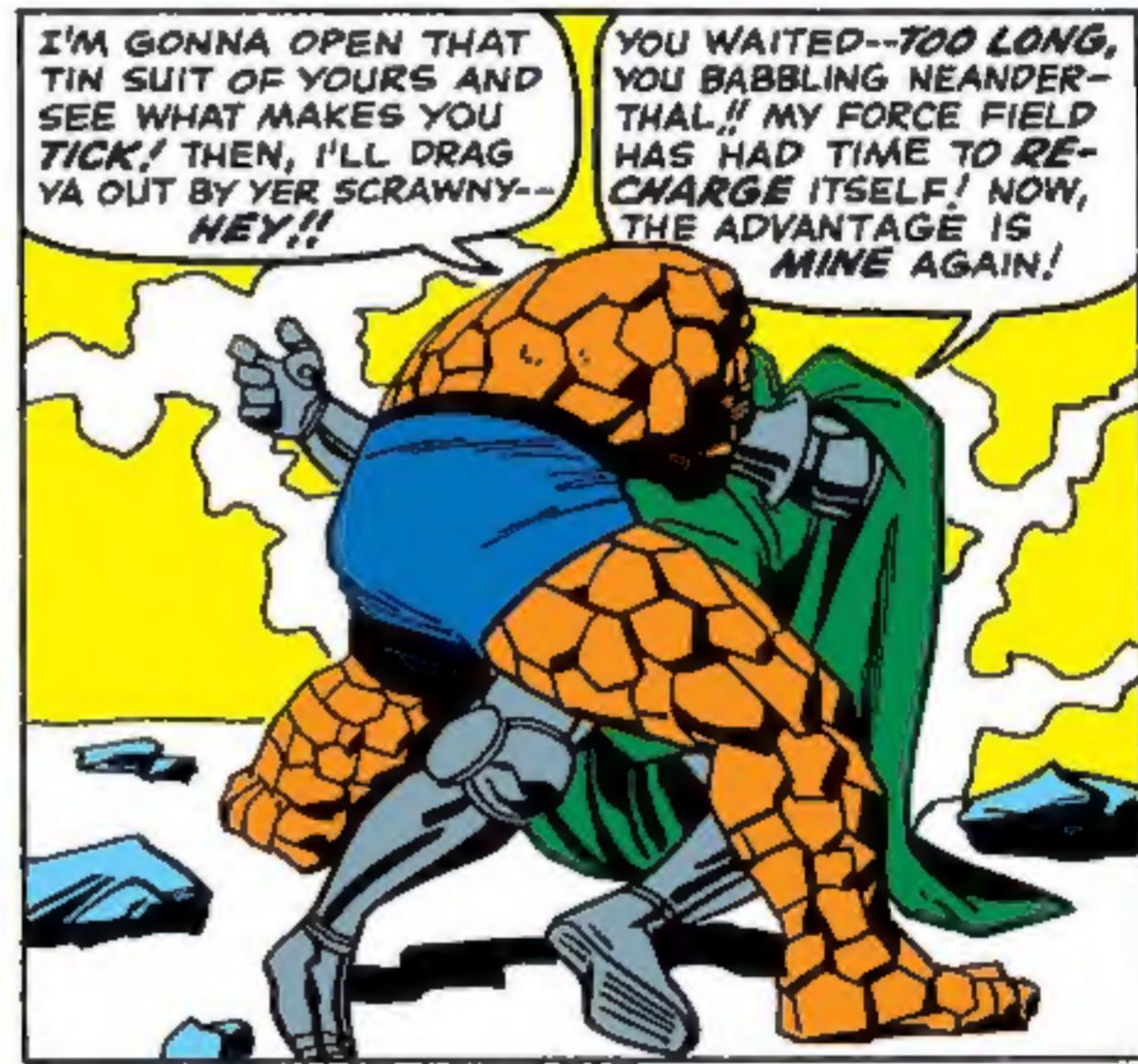
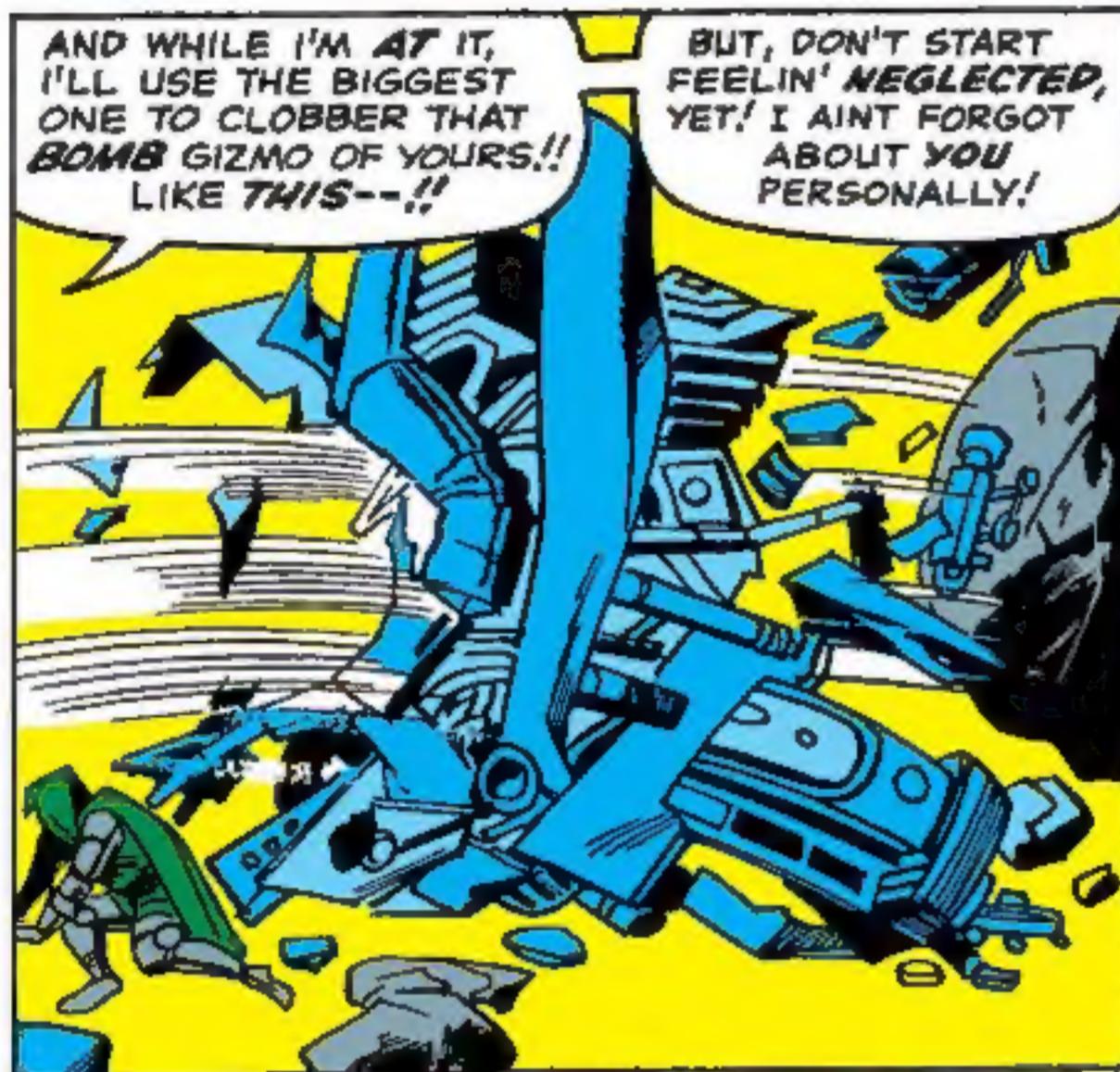
VERY WELL, I CAN
ARRANGE THAT, ALSO--
THOUGH I HAD HOPED
IT WOULD NOT BE
NECESSARY!

YOU AINT ABOUT TO
STOP ME BY SHOOTIN'
THOSE LITTLE PEBBLES
MY WAY, CRUMBUM!

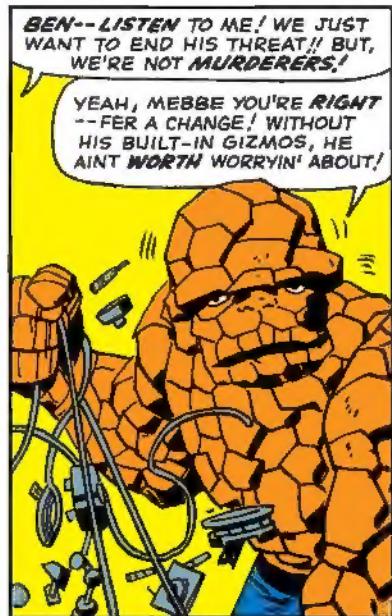
ONCE AGAIN YOU FLAUNT
YOUR IGNORANCE! THESE
ARE NO MORE PEBBLES,
THING! THEY ARE INTEN-
SIFIED MOLECULES--!

AND, THE INSTANT THEY
ARE EXPOSED TO THE
AIR, THEIR MASS
INCREASES-- UNTIL
THEY ATTAIN THE SIZE
AND STRENGTH OF
Giant BOULDERS!

--BOULDERS WHICH WILL KEEP
SLAMMING INTO YOU UNTIL EVEN
YOUR MASSIVE BODY IS BEATEN
AND STILLED!







REMEMBER, HE'S STILL THE RULER OF LATVERIA, AND AS SUCH, HE HAS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY! BUT, BY DEFEATING HIM SO CONCLUSIVELY, YOU'VE BROKEN HIS PRIDE! IT'S THE WORST DEFEAT HE COULD HAVE SUFFERED!

BIG DEAL! WHERE WERE YOU WHILE WE WERE WALTZIN' AROUND??

WE TREATED DARE-DEVIL'S WOUNDS, AND HELPED HIM TO LEAVE!

THEN, WE WATCHED YOUR FIGHT, BUT REED FELT YOU WOULDN'T WANT US TO INTERFERE!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU ONCE OR TWICE, BEN. I ALMOST STEPPED IN-- BUT NOW, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T!



20

THUS, IN THE WAKE OF THEIR GREATEST VICTORY, THE FANTASTIC FOUR FACE THEIR GREATEST CRISIS! BE PREPARED FOR THE MOST STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS OF ALL NEXT ISSUE ON THE PAGES OF THIS, THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

THE END